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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
AID-05 ACDA-07 /088 W
----------242211Z 024941 /64
R 241610Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1435
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO
SUBJECT: PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZES EXCOMM TO INITIATE
DIALOGUE WITH JORDAN

1. SUMMARY: PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL(PCC) MET IN DAMASCUS
JAN. 22 AND AGREED TO INITIATE PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN DIALOGUE.
PNC MEETING STILL REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY, BUT PCC
DID NOT SETTLE ISSUE OF EXPANDING PNC. END SUMMARY.

2. PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL (PCC) MET IN DAMASCUS EVENING JAN. 22.
ACCORDING TO STATEMENT BY ITS CHAIRMAN KHALID FAHUM FOLLOWING
DAY, PCC AGREED TO AUTHORIZE EXCOMM TO INITIATE SYRO-PALESTINIAN
DIALOGUE ON BASIS OF RABAT RESES. BEFORE REACHING AGREEMENT
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ON THIS NEW DEPARTURE, PCC REVIEWED DISCUSSIONS HELD IN AMMAN
DURING ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION CONFERENCE BETWEEEN KING HUSSEIN,
FAHUM AND HANI AL-HASAN. ON EVE OF PCC MEETING, FAHUM
STATED TO AL-THAWRAH CORRESPONDENT THAT HE HAD MET WITH
HUNDREDS OF PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN AND THAT THEY URGED
ESTABLISHMENT OF PLO-JORDANIAN TIES TO STRENGTHEN
PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND BASED

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ON PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
ANY ARAB STATE.

3. WHILE PCC GAVE ITS FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF ATTEMPT TO
SECURE RAPPROCHEMENT WITH JORDAN, WHICH FAHUM HAD HELPED
INITIATE, PCC CHAIRMAN APPARENTLY RECEIVED SETBACK ON ISSUES
AFFECTING RECONVENING OF PNC. IN AL-THARAH INTERVIEW
FAHUM SAID PCC MEMBERS WOULD DISCUSS SETTING EXACT DATE
FOR PNC SESSION AND COMPOSITION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER,
IN POST-PCC INTERVIEW HE ADMITTED THAT AGREEMENT ON THESE
TWO ISSUES DEFERRED UNTIL DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD WITH
"SOME PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS WHICH DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN
PCC MEETINGS," POSSIBLY A REFERENCE TO REJECTION FRONT. HE
ASSERTED PNC WOULD MEET "AS SCHEDULED" IN LATE FEBRUARY.

4. SYRIAN MEDIA DID NOT IGNORE ARAFAT, BUT DEVOTED MAJOR
COVERAGE TO FAHUM. JAN. 24 PRESS PICTURED PRES. ASAD
RECEIVING FAHUM PREVIOUS DAY. ACCORDING TO PRESS, "THEIR
CONVERSATION DEALT WITH RESULTS OF PCC MEETING, WHICH WOUND
UP ITS WORK JAN. 22 IN DAMASCUS AFTER ADOPTING NUMBER OF
RESES., FOREMOST AMONG WHICH WAS PROVISION FOR STRENGTHENING
PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS." PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT
FONMIN KHADDAM HAD RECEIVED ARAFAT, ZYHAYR MUHSIN, YASIR
ABD RABBU AND SHAFIQ AL-HOUT, BUT PUBLISHED NO PHOTO.

5. IN JAN. 23 AL-THAWRAH INTERVIEW, ABU MAZIN SUPPORTED
RAPPROCHEMENT WITH JORDAN ON BASIS OF RABAT RESOLUTIONS,
STATING "OTHER THAN THAT WE HAVE NO PRECONCEIVED POSITION."
HE PRAISED CREATION OF SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COMMAND
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AND ASSERTED, "WE HAVE REQUESTED TO BECOME A PARTY TO IT."
DECLARING THAT CURRENT SYRIAN-ZIWUCUFPALESTINIAN#RELATION-
SHIP "A GOOD ONE," HE INDICATED THAT "A FORMULA FOR THIS
BOND SHOULD BE CREATED IN ORDER PLACE IT IN ITS PROPER
CONTEXT." HE WELCOMED JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION, NOTING THAT
RABAT RESOLUTIONS STIPULATED SUCH COOPERATION. IN REPLYING
TO QUESTION ABOUT PNC AGENDA, HE GAVE VAGUE CONVOLUTED ANSWER
BUT DID OPINE THAT PNC WOULD DEVOTE SPECIAL INTEREST TO
OCCUPIED LAND, "IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE STRUGGLE FROM
WITHIN."

6. COMMENT: SYRIA HAS ACHIEVED DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS IN
WINNING OFFICIAL PLO ENDORSEMENT OF OPENING DIALOGUE WITH
JORDAN. FAHUM AND ABU MAYZAR TOOK SOME RISK IN VISITING
JORDAN RECENTLY, BUT PACE OF CONTACTS SHOULD NOW GATHER
SOME MOMENTUM, WITH PLO OFFICIALS FINDING LESS EMBARRASS-
MENT IN TALKS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS. ARAFAT CANNOT BE CON-
SIDERED LOSER, SINCE EXCOMM RATHER THAN PCC OR PNC HAS
BEEN CHARGED WITH INITIATING DIALOGUE, WHICH WILL ENABLE

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HIM AS EXCOMM LEADER TO GUIDE PLO-JORDANIAN DISCUSSIONS.
WE NOTE THAT FAHUM REFERRED TO NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS, WHICH WILL BE RECEIVED WELL IN AMMAN, AND
IN ADDITION WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT
REFERRING TO MILITARY ASPECTS OF PLO-JORDANIAN RELATIONS
SUCH AS REESTABLISHMENT OF PLO MILITARY BASE IN
JORDAN. DIALOGUE SUCH AS IT IS AT THIS STAGE APPEARS
LIMITED TO POLITICAL RECONCILIATION. LITTLE PROGRESS
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY PCC ON EXPANDING PNC
MEMBERSHIP AND SETTING PRECISE DATE FOR RECONVENING IT.
FACT THAT FAHUM MET ALONE WITH ASAD AND RECEIVED LION'S
SHARE OF PUBLICITY INDICATES SARG WISHES TO CONTINUE
PRESSURE ON ARAFAT AND EXCOMM.
MURPHY

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PALESTINIANS, CONCILIATION, COMMITTEES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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